

Mansfield Public Schools

Board of Education Update

Fred Baruzzi

Superintendent of Schools

Issue #32

February 2011

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming

Enrollment

Gr.	GW		SE		VN		MMS		Total
		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*	
PK	28	2/4	30	2/2	31	1/1			89
K	37	5/1	51	7/1	47	11/3			135
1	30	1/1	39	7/2	59	4/1			128
2	38	1/1	48	5/0	38	4/2			124
3	39	3/2	46	3/3	51	0/1			136
4	29	1/1	51	2/1	52	3/3			132
PK-4									744
5							145	7/1	145
6							143	4/3	141
7							147	5/10	147
8							148	3/0	147
# Boys	114		145		148		294		
# Girls	87		120		130		289		
Total	201	13/10	265	26/9	278	23/11	583	19/14	1327

*Entries/Withdrawals

- Home-school year to date total: 3 families with 6 students.

	GW	SE	VN	MMS	District
Immigrant Children*	8	14	6	9	37
ELL**	7	16	8	10	41

*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.

**English Language Learners subject to fall testing.

Connecticut Mastery Test – Fourth Generation Results

Grade	Math	Writing	Reading	Science
3 – 133	101/75.9	79/59.8	107/70.5	-----
4 – 130	109/83.8	106/80.9	106/81.5	-----
5 – 135	110/81.5	105/77.2	91/66.9	107/78.1
6 – 146	116/79.5	115/78.8	122/83.6	-----
7 – 133	115/80.4	114/79.7	127/88.8	-----
8 – 138	112/81.2	115/81.6	128/84.2	130/84.2

- Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2010-11 grade)

Gr. 4 – 63/47.3%	Gr. 7 – 47/32.2%
Gr. 5 – 39/29.8%	Gr. 8 – 41/28.7%
Gr. 6 – 39/28.5%	Gr. 9 – 29/20.6%

- Results reviewed by district and building administration along with appropriate teaching and support staff.
- Reviewed NCLB reports that indicated MMS and the district received safe harbor in one sub-group in Reading.

Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

Sept.-Feb., 2010		Sept.-Feb., 2011	
Paid Meals	Total Meals	Paid Meals	Total Meals
56,502	83,339	52,093	86,079

- Board adopted 2011-2012 Budget of \$20,572,170 (-.08%) to MBOE on February 10, 2011.

Personnel

	Certified	Non-Certified
Retirements	0	0
Resignations	1	0
Requests for Leave	1	0
New Hires	0	0
Reduction in Force	0	0

- Conducted search for Southeast nurse.
- Met with MBOE Personnel Committee to prepare for CSEA/SEIU and Secretaries Association negotiations.
- Facilitated & implemented Memorandum of Understanding with MEA, CSEA/SEIU, UPSEU Food Service Workers, and School Nurses regarding change to February vacation.

District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated a year three implementation plan for *Bridges in Mathematics*.
- Facilitated the plan for implementing Houghton Mifflin: *Legacy of Literacy*.
- Implemented district review and use of CBAS (CT Benchmark Assessment System) for grades 3-8 in Math & Reading.
- Supported UCONN research project regarding writing at the Middle School and Goodwin.
- Conducted two Administrative Council meetings.
- Facilitated external program review for Science and World Languages.
- Facilitated District Grade Level Assessment meetings.
- Facilitated changes to clarify K-4 Progress Reports for 11-12 school year.

Policies

- Continued to implement revised MBOE Policies approved at October 14, 2010 meeting, including 3 revised/new policies approved November 18, 2010.
- Continued to explore the possibility of MBOE/Region 19 Policies revised concurrently.
- Initiated review of Administration of Medicine in Schools policy.

Building and Grounds

- Continued to implement an alternative work order system.
- Conducted Facilities Management meeting to address current issues.
- Facilitated revisions to the Mansfield Public Schools Custodial and Maintenance Procedures and Policies Manual.
- Water tests at all schools showed no issues.
- Attended Town Council Special Meeting on Building Project.
- Attended School Building Committee Meeting.
- Completed installation of carbon monoxide monitors in all four buildings.
- Facilitated tours of Southeast and Vinton Schools, led by building principal and Director of Maintenance.
- Reviewed teacher/student egress for school classrooms windows given recent snow storms.
- Facilitate inspection, monitoring, and management of school roofs regarding snow.
- Established a plan for reviewing parent drop off and pick up for the 2011-2012 school year.

Programs

Study Island Through 2/26/11							
Grade 3				Grade 4			
Math		Reading		Math		Reading	
Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct
40,880	83.2	26,268	69.4	20,089	79.8	18,656	71.2

*Number of questions attempted on grade level

Students Reporting No Health Insurance

	GW	SE	VN	MMS
# Students	201	266	276	582
# Families	155	202	201	483
# Students Reporting No Health Insurance	0	4	2	11

Security

- Continued the implementation of new required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials.
- Continued the implementation of Tabletop Emergency Procedures Drill preparation.

Energy

- Facilitated school building energy committees.
- Continued to facilitate guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Reduced hall lighting in hallways in all 4 schools and some classrooms at MMS.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.
- Initiated monitoring of gas heat & electric energy charges at MMS due to fuel conversion project.
- Discussed with finance and maintenance department common comprehensive energy management system.
- Renewed application to DCSynergy for free solar panels on elementary schools.

Communication

- Held monthly meeting with Town Manager.
- Conducted monthly meetings with bargaining unit leaders.
- Facilitated district TEAM Committee meeting.
- Facilitated district Technology Committee meeting.
- Attended meeting URSA and Hockanum Superintendents Meetings.
- Attended two meetings of Region 19 & sending schools' superintendents.
- Facilitated Wellness Policy Advisory Committee meeting.
- Conducted budget discussions with staff at each building.

Professional Development

- Facilitated Language Arts Professional Development for Gr. 4 classroom teachers rescheduled due to snow day.
- Facilitated Writing Prompt Scoring for 6-7 classroom teachers rescheduled due to snow day.
- Facilitated Bridges in Mathematics professional development for Gr. 4 classroom teachers rescheduled due to snow day.
- Implemented district committee to review district SRBI procedures.
- Facilitated K-2 Literacy How training.

Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued spread sheet submission of language arts assessments.
- Continued conversion to Horizon library system software.
- Supported training and development of PowerSchool software at MMS and Filemaker Pro software.
- Implemented new PowerSchool cafeteria software in all four schools.
- Implemented Pearson Limelight Inform to track student assessment data to inform instruction.
- Continued implementation of AlertNow software program for transportation issues.
- Implemented the posting on district website of a four schools district calendar.

Other

- Attended MAC Committee Meeting.
- Attended EASTCONN Health Benefit Cooperative meeting.
- Attended CAPSS Assessment and Accountability Committee meeting.
- Attended EASTCONN Promoting NE Connecticut Priorities workshop.
- Attended State Legislative Education Committee meeting.
- Presented at Neag School's Interviewing Preparation Session.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing mboesupt@mansfieldct.org.

Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

Goodwin School

- Beginning on February 25, members of the UConn Chess club began offering an after school chess club for second through fourth grade students at Goodwin. Every Friday afternoon, students learn the game of chess with great young adult role models. Special thanks to Nancy Titchen and UConn for making this connection possible.
- The first editions of the Goodwin Times are available for review on the Goodwin homepage. The Times, an on-line newspaper, were the creation of three fourth graders, Courtney, Rosy, and Juli. With the help of their teachers and Mrs. Thompson in the computer lab, the girls take submissions from students, interview and write articles, and create student surveys and activity pages. We hope you take a look at their great publication!
- First graders are having a great time studying penguins as part of their Bridges' Math Program. They are learning about the different types of penguins as part of a broader measurement unit. With the winter we've been having, this unit couldn't come at a better time. First grader, Mary Kate, says she loves learning about penguins because she never knew anything about them before. Her favorite – the Emperor Penguin!

Southeast School

- Our PE Instructor Betsy Parker has been taking advantage of the large amounts of snow we've had over the last two months. During the months of January and February, Ms. Parker has provided our third and fourth graders with the opportunity to go cross-country skiing right outside our school doors. As a result of her efforts, our students have had a tremendous experience skiing on all conditions of snow. This PE activity would not have been possible without the generous support and funds from the PTO which allowed us to purchase a classroom supply of skis and boots.
- Catherine Grenier, a 2nd grader at Southeast, initiated an all-school Pet Supply Drive to benefit the Mansfield Animal Shelter. When Catherine Grenier was in kindergarten, she wanted to do something to help her community. Catherine's mother, Robin, took her to visit the Mansfield Animal Shelter to meet the Animal Control Officer, Noranne Nielson, and some of the animals. She met fuzzy cats, dogs of all sizes, and even a goat! They talked about the shelter's needs -kitty litter, pet food and treats. Catherine's kindergarten teacher, Monique Brown, helped her arrange a visit from Ms. Nielson. Catherine and her classmates learned about animal shelters and animal safety. The kindergarteners got to work right away on posters about the Pet Supply Drive. Catherine helped to design a flyer to go home and made announcements on the loud speaker complete with motivational music. Supplies came pouring in and, a short time later, Catherine and her parents delivered two trunk-loads of supplies to the Shelter. This has become an annual event; Catherine just kicked off her third Pet Supply Drive at Southeast School.
- James Hendricks, a third grade teacher at Southeast, has been selected as a 2011 Target Field Trip Grant recipient. The amount of this grant is \$700 which will be used for a third field trip to our new Connecticut Science Center. These funds will pay for the bus rental and admission tickets. The Target grant provides K-12 students with the opportunity to experience learning outside the classroom and enhance their studies in the arts, math, science and/or social studies.

Vinton School

- Our February 9th Winter Concert featured the Junior Choir, made up of 46 first and second grade students, and the Vinton Singers, made up of 40 third and fourth grade students. The Junior Choir sang a variety of songs including an American folk song called 'Rocky Mountain' for which we created our own verse about Vinton School. They also learned sign language for the song 'All the Way Around the World' (4 verses!), and ended with a Cajun song and dance called 'Crawfish!' The Vinton Singers started their portion of the program with a South African song, 'Tina Singu' ('We Burn with the Fire of Life'), which is frequently sung at large gatherings and sports events. They also sang an American folk song, a difficult and very beautiful song called 'Circle Round the Moon' and ended with 'Do Re Mi' from 'The Sound of Music'.

Vinton Continued:

- During the month of February, the Kindergarten children at Vinton organize a school wide project for our Mansfield Animal Shelter: buy a valentine for \$1.00 and help shelter animals. They invite each child and staff member to bring in a photo or draw a picture of their animal friend. Animals have included dogs, cats, horses, birds, fish, or any animals that may be special to them. They have even displayed a picture of Happy the Penguin! The Kindergartners help cut and sort the valentines. There are special "In loving memory" valentines. 100% of the money raised goes to Friends of the Mansfield Animal Shelter (FOMAS.) Over the past 12 years, the Kindergarteners have helped Vinton raise, \$400.00 to \$600.00 yearly, (approximately \$6,000.) All proceeds going to the Mansfield Animal Shelter. In late Spring, Noranne Nielsen, Mansfield Animal Control Officer, comes to visit and thank the Kindergartners. She, also, does an educational program about pet care, pet responsibility, and keeping safe around animals.
- "Can cinnamon kill mold?" "What would an underwater volcano look like?" "How might we make blowing up a balloon easier for kids?" These and a multitude of other child-centered questions peppered the Gym at the Annie E. Vinton Invention Convention and Science Fair on Wednesday, February 16, 2011. Over fifty students participated. That's about one of every five Vinton students who proudly wore their "Student Inventor," and "Student Scientist" badges that day. They had each created a project to demonstrate what they learned about a question. Kids have an endless supply of questions, and the variety of displays illustrated the insatiable curiosity of our students.

Mansfield Middle School

- The MMS **Science Bowl** teams competed at the New England Regional competition held at the University of Connecticut on February 26. The 8th grade team consisting of Harrison Hall, Rachel Son, Sam Li, Miranda Sommer and Ashim Ranjeet had a fabulous day, placing third out of the 30 teams competing. They brought home a very large trophy. A second MMS team of John Zhou, Alice Hu, Sarah No, Peter Tomanelli, Michael Sotzing, and Sam Huang progressed far into the tournament, narrowly losing to Smith Middle School, the other finalist. The fuel cell car team led by 8th grader Jordan Sydye placed 5th in a challenging field.
- Two fifth grade reading classes of Mrs. Dickinson and Mrs. Baxter are participating in the Learning Lands Stewardship & Conservation Program. Students focus on reading graphs & maps, interpreting expository text, comparing and contrasting information, and determining cause/effect relationships. Students are also studying ecosystems and the value of their biodiversity, the effects of invasive species, and classification systems of plants and animals. Students and teachers can look forward to upcoming field studies at Knowlton Farm and the Learning Lands Bioblitz in June. In addition, students can look forward to exploring new relationships with students from other towns, as well as studying conservation and biodiversity in Mansfield Middle School's own backyard.
- Grades 5 and 6 students were treated to a special science assembly from the Children's Museum in West Hartford. *The Science Genie* presented and reviewed many science concepts such as electricity, air pressure, sound, light and lasers.
- The MMS MathCounts team of Eric Hong, Rachel Son, Anyisia, Lee, and Jonathan Huang placed first in the Eastern Region. In an unprecedented performance all four mathletes made it to the countdown round. MMS had 4 of the top 8 mathletes out of 189 students competing. Ashim Ranjeet and Sam Li also placed in the top 25% and will be representing MMS at the State competition along with the main team members. A special note, 5th grader Jinhee Paeng scored as high as our highest scorers but because he is a 5th grader, he was ineligible from going to the state level. The MathCounts team is coached by MMS enrichment teacher Doug Perkins.

Upcoming Events in March:

Please join us at any/all of these events

GW	SE	VN
Town Meeting 3/8/11 2:25pm	Rhyme Celebration Washington , CT 3/16/11	PTA Meeting 3/8/11 7:30pm
Family Math Night 3/15/11 6:30-7:30pm	Science Fair/Invention Convention 3/24/11 6:30	Rhyme Celebration Washington , CT 3/16/11
PTO Meeting 3/16/11 6:30pm	Kid Power Assembly 3/25/11 1:30pm	Staff Appreciation Week 3/21-25/11
CT Historical Society Gr. 3 FT 3/25/11	Literacy Night 3/28/11 6:00pm	
Chariot of Sun Assembly 3/31/11 2:00pm		
MMS		
Strings Group at Senior Center 3/2/11 12:00pm	Local History Day 3/3/11 Evening	Eastern Regional Middle School Music Festival 3/4-5/11
Spring Country Dance 3/8/11 7:00pm	All-School Reading Assembly 3/15/11 1:20- 2:50pm	
District		
Board of Education Meeting 3/10/11 MMS 7:00pm Tour of building 7:30pm Regular Meeting		

Link to District Four Schools Calendar of Events:

<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/3607/5184/7573.aspx>

or:

Go to <http://www.mansfieldct.org/mboe> (Board of Ed. website)

- 1) In the middle at the bottom is a link called "Calendar of Events"
- 2) Click on that link and it will bring you to the calendar.

Advanced Organizer

April 14, 2011

Meeting with Town Council regarding 2011-12 Budget – 6:30pm in
Council Chambers
Board Meeting in Council Chambers – 7:30pm